

departments. We need to have fire-fighting grants to allow local governments to have the capacity to train these people better. So for State and local antiterrorism investments for police and fire departments and additional firefighting grants, that figure is \$1.6 billion.

We need to also recognize that the FBI needs more assistance. All Federal law enforcement needs help. That includes computer modernization, especially for the FBI. They need additional agents. They are working long hours and getting worn down since September 11. I am not going to state in the Chamber the numbers of people in the Las Vegas Customs office. To do so would be embarrassing to me and to our country. It is the same all over the country. We are asking the U.S. Customs to do all kinds of things legislatively that they don't have the staff to do. We need a huge additional amount of money to take care of Customs.

We know that the terrorists who came and did the acts of September 11 didn't come over the southern border we hear so much about. They came through the northern border. We need to make sure there is more funding for the Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and U.S. Attorneys. Our courts need more money, as does the U.S. Marshals Service. What I have talked about here, starting with the FBI, is going to cost us about \$1.7 billion.

We know most of the time who comes into this country, but once they come here, they are lost in a maze of 270 million people. We need the Immigration and Naturalization Service to improve their tracking of people who are in this country and people who are on student visas. I believe we should do all we can to have exchange programs and have people study in our great universities. Out of the approximately 135 great universities in the world, 121 of them are in the United States. It is great we have people who want to come from other countries to study here. But we need to make sure that once they come here, they are not lost in the maze of people in the United States.

We need border enhancements, improved tracking of people, including people on student visas. This is going to cost about \$1.5 billion. We know that airport security is going to cost more money, about \$1 billion. Transit security is also important, \$1.1 billion. We need to make sure there is adequate Federal security protection in Federal facilities such as nuclear plants and border facilities, national parks, and water projects. That will cost over \$1 billion.

Enhancements for highways: I believe if we are going to have a real stimulus package in this country, we are going to have to do something with job creation. It is not going to be done

all on the tax side. We have to create jobs.

For every billion dollars, for example, we spend on highways, we create 42,000 jobs. So much needs to be done with our highways. This would be an immediate pick-up, an immediate stimulus to our economy all over America, whether it is New York or Nevada or any of the other 48 States. There are projects that have been designed, and the only thing holding up the projects from going forward is money. We would create hundreds of thousands of jobs if we decided to spend \$4 billion on these projects.

We could easily spend \$2.5 billion for enhancement of highways. We could allocate \$2.1 billion for clean and safe drinking water projects. Indian Health Service clinics and other initiatives need to be taken care of.

There needs to be a direct, strong movement to restore confidence in our economy. One way we can do that is to create jobs. The other way, and they go together, is to restore confidence in our homeland defense.

I have discussed with Senator Abraham, Governor Ridge, the head of the FBI, and the head of the CIA the need to have a place for training people who are part of our counter-terrorism task force. I am very provincial in this. I understand that. But the Nevada test site, where we set off 1,000 nuclear devices over the years, is a place as large as Rhode Island. It has mountains, valleys, deserts, dry lakes. It has a facility already there for testing chemical spills. It has huge dormitories and restaurants. It is a place that is waiting for some activity.

In addition to that, if we want to test hardened silos that Saddam Hussein and people in Afghanistan have dug and built, we can use a network of tunnels that have been built there for nuclear testing over the years that are miles long. So as part of restoring confidence in the economy, we should have this national terrorism center.

I only hope that we all understand that it is extremely important we not walk out of here with a stimulus package that is driven solely by tax cuts. I acknowledge that there are certain things we can do that are important on the tax side. There are other things we need to do. We need to look at those people who have been displaced in the September 11 aftermath.

Senator CARNAHAN offered an amendment on the airline security bill. It was a good amendment that failed on a party-line vote. That is too bad. We need to make sure before we leave here that the Carnahan amendment passes. We must do that.

We also must recognize that people who have been displaced not only have problems of unemployment, but they have no health insurance. We have to do something to extend COBRA or somehow to take care of COBRA.

While we talk about these extended unemployment benefits, we have to understand that unemployment compensation is a bridge to nowhere unless there is a job on the other end of it. We have to make sure we do something about that.

I spoke last evening to Senator NELSON of Florida. I have spoken to the two Senators from New York and other States who have an interest in tourism. That includes at least 30 States that have tourism as the No. 1, 2, or 3 most important economic forces in their States. We have to boost tourism.

There has been general agreement that we should look at a program to give a tax credit to people who travel—short-term, of course. We need to take a look and see if we need to restore the deductibility for business meals to stimulate the economy in that regard.

Senator DORGAN and I introduced legislation last week that would look at the ancillary businesses inside the airline business, such as rental car companies and travel agencies. These people also need a shot in the arm.

If we walk out of here this year and don't take into consideration the fact that we need to restore confidence in the economy by creating jobs and making sure people feel good about our homeland defense issues, we will have made a big mistake.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:23 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. STABENOW).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I yield to my colleague from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2002—Continued

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the list I will send to the desk, once this consent has been granted, be the only first-degree amendments to H.R. 3061, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and that these amendments be subject to relevant second-degree amendments.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Mexico.

AMENDMENT NO. 2020

(Purpose: To provide for equal coverage of mental health benefits with respect to health insurance coverage unless comparable limitations are imposed on medical and surgical benefits)

Mr. DOMENICI. On behalf of myself, Senator WELLSTONE, and Senator KENNEDY, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. KENNEDY, proposes an amendment numbered 2020.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to offer the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2001 as amendment to the fiscal year 2002 Labor-HHS bill. I am joined by my friend and partner in this endeavor, Senator WELLSTONE.

We are well aware of many of the arguments that will be made against our amendment. For instance, while the nation is rightly focused on recovering from the trauma and damage inflicted on September 11, it would be wrong to overlook this important issue because it is simply the right course of action to undertake. We are well past the time to act on extending and building on the federal mental health parity law that expired on September 30.

Others will argue that our amendment costs too much. However, CBO has scored our bill as costing less than one percent 0.9 percent and again passing this bill is long overdue and the right thing to do for the millions of Americans suffering from a mental illness. The number of Americans suffering from a mental illness or the number of family members affected by a mental illness has not magically decreased over the past couple of months.

We are ready for a vigorous debate on a host of issues, but I would like to begin by saying: Our bill has 64 bipartisan cosponsors; the HELP Committee reported out the bill on August 1 by a vote of 21-0; 144 organizations support the bill; and CBO has scored the bill as raising insurance premiums by 0.9 percent.

The human brain is the organ of the mind and like the other organs of our body, it is subject to illness. And just as we must treat illnesses to our other organs, we must also treat illnesses of the brain.

Building upon that, I would ask the following question: what if thirty years ago our nation had decided to exclude heart disease from health insurance coverage? Think about some of the wonderful things we would not be doing today like angioplasty, bypasses, and valve replacements and the millions of people helped because insurance covers these procedures.

I would submit these medical advances have occurred because insurance dollars have followed the patient through the health care system. The presence of insurance dollars has provided an enticing incentive to treat those individuals suffering from heart disease.

But sadly, those suffering from a mental illness do not enjoy those same benefits of treatment and medical advances because all too often insurance discriminates against illnesses of the brain. More often than not, opponents of mental health parity argue the costs are too great. However, I would submit the cost of parity is negligible, especially, when contrasted with the cost impact upon society. The devastating consequences inflicted upon not only those suffering from a mental illness, but their families, their friends, and their loved ones.

Furthermore, the following are several additional costs that result from mental illness: 16 percent of all individuals incarcerated in State and local jails suffer from a mental illness; suicide is currently a national public health crisis, with approximately 30,000 Americans committing suicide every year; of the 850,000 homeless individuals in the United States, about one-third or 300,000 of those individuals suffer from a serious mental illness; and finally what about the people that are crying out for help and society only hears their cries after they have com-

mitted a violent act against themselves or others.

Just look, at the tragic incidents in Houston with the mother killing her five children, the Baptist church in Dallas/Forth Worth, and the United States Capitol to see the common link: a severe mental illness. Unfortunately, there is no place that a community can take these individuals for help. The police can do very little and likewise for hospitals.

Some of you may have seen last year's 4 part series of articles in the New York times reviewing the cases of 100 rampage killers.

Most notably the review found that 48 killers had some kind of formal diagnosis for a mental illness, often schizophrenia: 25 of the killers had received a diagnose of mental illness before committing their crimes; 14 of 24 individuals prescribed psychiatric drugs had stopped taking their medication prior to committing their crimes.

In particular I would point to a couple of passages from the series:

They give lots of warning and even tell people explicitly what they plan to do.

... a closer look shows that these cases may have more to do with society's lack of knowledge of mental health issues ... In case after case, family members, teachers and mental health professionals missed or dismissed signs of deterioration.

Now let us look at the number of individuals suffering from some of the dreaded mental illnesses.

Major depressive disorder: 9.9 million American adults age 18 and older suffer from this disorder in a given year;

Bipolar disorder: 2.3 million American adults age 18 and older suffer from this disorder in a given year;

Schizophrenia: 2.2 million American adults age 18 and older suffer from this disorder in a given year; and

Obsessive-compulsive disorder: 3.3 million American adults age 18-54 suffer from this disorder in a given year.

However, medical science is in an era where we can accurately diagnose mental illnesses and treat those afflicted so they can be productive.

I would ask then, why with facts like these would we not cover these individuals and treat their illnesses like any other disease? We should not.

Working together, we took a historic first step with the passage of the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996, but that law is also not working as intended. While there may be adherence to the letter of the law, there are violations of the spirit of the law.

For instance, ways are being found around the law by placing limits on the number of covered hospital days and outpatient visits. Consequently, Senator WELLSTONE and I have again joint forces and introduced the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2001.

The bill seeks a very simple goal: provide the same mental health benefits already enjoyed by Federal employees.